



# Using the 1930 Federal Census

in the  
California History Room

## Step 1

Obtain a street address, including city and county. Sources might include:

- ◆ Your family records.
- ◆ The 1920 Census, if you are fairly sure the family did not move before 1930.
- ◆ City directories. Check our database at [www.library.ca.gov/calhist/citycountydir.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/citycountydir.html) to find the location and format of the directory you need.
- ◆ Telephone directories. To see if we have the needed directory on microfilm, check our database at [www.library.ca.gov/calhist/telephonedir.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/telephonedir.html).

## Step 2

Find a map of the area. *Note:* This step may be postponed until you have determined which enumeration district tool you will be using (Step 3).

- ◆ Contemporary (1928-1932) maps are best, especially in more rural areas. Check our map card index for the area you need.
- ◆ A modern map may work for urban areas. You can use our public Internet computers to print a map from a web site such as MapQuest.

## Step 3

Determine the enumeration district (ED). Several tools are available:

- ◆ If the city is listed below, use the *Index to Selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts* (NARA microfilm M1931). Request these reels at the Information Desk. Look up the street name and then the street number. A map (from Step 2) is not required with this tool.
  - Berkeley
  - Long Beach
  - Los Angeles county cities
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
- ◆ If the city is listed below, use the **One-Step ED Locator**. This web site is bookmarked on our public Internet computers: [stevemorse.org/census/index.html](http://stevemorse.org/census/index.html). Enter the street name, followed by the nearest cross streets. You are likely to need a map from Step 2 in order to identify the cross streets
  - Alameda
  - Alhambra
  - Bakersfield
  - Berkeley
  - Fresno
  - Glendale
  - Los Angeles (city)
  - Long Beach
  - Oakland
  - Pasadena
  - Riverside
  - Sacramento
  - San Bernardino
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
  - San Jose
  - Santa Ana
  - Santa Barbara
  - Santa Monica
  - Stockton

*(Over—more tools on the back)*

### **Step 3 (continued)**

Determine the enumeration district (continued).

- ◆ If the city is not included in either of the previous tools, use the **NARA 1930 Census Microfilm Locator** at [1930census.archives.gov/beginSearch.asp](http://1930census.archives.gov/beginSearch.asp). This web site is also bookmarked on our public Internet computers. This tool lists only ED boundaries (instead of all the streets in the ED), so you will probably need a map from Step 2, unless the city was quite small.
- ◆ Another tool is *Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts* (NARA microfilm T1224). Request these reels at the Information Desk. (Be sure to request the reels for 1930.) Like the web site above, this tool lists only ED boundaries, so you are likely to need a map from Step 2.
- ◆ You can also use the *Enumeration District Maps for the Fifteenth Census of the United States* (NARA microfilm M1930). Request these reels at the Information Desk. The maps vary in quality and readability, so you may need a map from Step 2 to help you find the address.

### **Step 4**

Determine the correct census reel.

- ◆ If you have used either of the web resources to determine the ED, you already have the reel number.
- ◆ If you used any of the microfilm tools, consult the *1930 Federal Population Census Catalog of NARA Microfilm* at the Information Desk.
- ◆ Request the reel at the Information Desk.

### **Step 5**

Locate the family on the reel.

- ◆ Find the city.
- ◆ Find the ED.
- ◆ Find the street.
- ◆ Scan for the house number or surname.

**If you have questions about any of these steps or resources, please ask at the Information Desk.** Good luck with your research!